

Minutes of a Public Hearing held at the Jamesport Firehouse, Jamesport, N. Y., on February 4th, 1976 at 7:30 P. M., on the matter of the proposed LILCO transmission lines in the Town of Riverhead.

Present:

Allen M. Smith, Supervisor
George G. Young, Councilman
Francis E. Menendez, Councilman
John Lombardi, Councilman
Jessie Tomlinson, Councilwoman

Also present: Peter S. Danowski, Jr., Town Attorney.

There were 110 people in attendance.

Supervisor Smith asked the Town Clerk to read the affidavits of publishing and posting the Public Notice on the hearing and also asked that the ground rules be read.

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M.

The Town Clerk submitted affidavits of publishing and posting Public Notice Calling Public Hearing on the proposed LILCO transmission lines in the Town of Riverhead, to be held at the Jamesport Firehouse, Jamesport, N. Y., on February 4th, 1976 at 7:30 P. M.

The affidavits were ordered placed on file.

The ground rules were read.

Supervisor Smith thereupon declared the Hearing open and spoke on the giving of testimony under oath, if the people wished to do so.

He then introduced Mr. Edward J. Walsh, Attorney, representing the Long Island Lighting Company, to briefly outline LILCO'S proposal.

EDWARD J. WALSH, Esq., stated as follows:

"My purpose as I see it, is to set the framework for your comments and the framework of your understanding of what is proposed by the Long Island Lighting Co.

There are presently two proceedings, which are now being conducted, of which the Long Island Lighting Co. is a part.

Now the first of these, is a proceeding which is called an Article 8 proceeding. It is a new proceeding created by the Legislature about two or three years ago, designed to enable the siting of generation stations in the State of New York, and the role that the Long Island Lighting Company plays in this proceeding is to analyze the electric needs of all of Long Island and make a determination as to whether or not additional generation stations are needed. In this case it has done so and has concluded that additional generation stations will be needed.

When the application was first filed, about two years ago, we believed that the generation facility would be needed in 1981. Because of conservation and other effects, there's been some slippage, in that and also there have been delays in the proceeding.

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. - continued:

Edward J. Walsh, Esq., continues:

It now appears as though the Lighting Company would not be able to build the plant before 1983. That proceeding is before a Board called the New York State Siting Board and they are taking evidence from any of the parties in that proceeding, concerning the need and concerning the type of generation station that's to be built. The Lighting Company's role in the proceeding was to make a recommendation that additional facilities would be needed and then make a recommendation concerning the type of generation that should be built.

In addition to that, they've also considered other kinds of generating capability, and on Long Island these days, the only other alternative would be a coal plant. So under the law, we've also been required to indicate what would be the environmental impact and what would be the cost of building a coal plant or coal plants of comparable capability here in Jamesport.

The decision will be made after all the evidence is in, by this New York State Siting Board. Now, of course if that Board decides that no plant is to be built or that the plant will be built at Shoreham, which is an alternate location in this proceeding, the Board will take into account, all of the evidence, as presented, concerning both sides, concerning the type of units and will make a decision eventually about the type of generating facility that will be built. Now if no plan is certified for the Jamesport location, then the transmission lines, which are the subject of the second proceeding, I'm going to describe briefly, would only be necessary to a limited degree. In other words, if Jamesport is not built, the transmission facilities from Jamesport to the Calverton sub-station which would consist of two 345KV transmission lines would not be built. The others would be built because of the construction of Shoreham.

Now, in addition to that brief summary on transmission lines, and this is what we're discussing this evening, is that the transmission lines will have to be built to get the power out of Jamesport, if that station is built and if it's certified that we are to build in Jamesport, then, the P. S. C. which is the presiding body on the transmission line proceedings, they're entitled to an Article 7 proceeding. That's also a new proceeding created by the Legislature to enable the placing of transmission lines in the areas where the generation facilities are being built.

Now, that proceeding, the Long Island Lighting Company, again, assuming that the Jamesport facility is built, has made a recommendation to build a double circuit electric transmission line, 345 KV, from Jamesport to Calverton.

I think that most of you are familiar with the route that the Long Island Lighting Company's main proposal will take. And I would say that in substance, it sort of bisects the farmlands between Sound Avenue and County Road 58 and the main road to get to Calverton. Now, that is what the Lighting Company has proposed. They propose an overhead line, based upon their analysis of the economics and the environmental impact that would result.

They have also suggested, as the law requires that a line be built underground and they've indicated a route for that.

The purpose of the Article 7, is to present evidence to the P. S. C. so that they can decide what kind of a line should be built and where it should be built. The proceedings also enables anyone who is a party to the proceedings, and in this case the Town of Riverhead, to suggest additional alternate routes that the P. S. C. might want to consider. And this is precisely the purpose for which we are here this evening to enable you to voice your suggestions as to alternate routes you feel the P. S. C. ought to consider. That is again, a brief summary of the Article 7 proceeding.

I am here to perhaps later answer some questions. "

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. - continued:

Councilman Young asked Mr. Walsh: "If it is put underground how wide an area do you need, how deep do you have to go, and what does it entail?"

Mr. Walsh stated that the area would be about 75 ft. wide and the pipes would be buried at least 3 ft. deep, with no detectable heat on the surface.

WILLIAM NOHEJL asked Mr. Walsh if the area width and depth, he just mentioned, would take care of both the proposed plants at Jamesport.

(Because Mr. Nohejl was barely audible, Supervisor Smith repeated the question).

After consulting with Mr. Angleman, Engineer with LILCO, Mr. Walsh related to Mr. Nohejl that that area would handle 5 pipes, which will accommodate the two plants proposed for Jamesport.

Supervisor Smith again repeated for Mr. Nohejl: "If a third plant has to be built, will a third overhead transmission line need to be added?"

Mr. Walsh replied after again consulting with Mr. Angleman: "Yes, if a third plant needs to be built, we will have to add a third transmission line."

Supervisor Smith stated that he wished to depart from his own rules and ask that people give their pros and cons re overhead or underground lines, farming, etc., as they did the night before. He then proceeded to swear Mr. Nohejl in.

WILLIAM NOHEJL, representing the L. I. Farm Bureau spoke on the overhead transmission lines regarding the distance of the poles and width of the corridor, etc., and stated that tonight was the first time anyone had ever mentioned that the width of the proposed underground lines was only going to be 75 ft. and hold only five pipes.

He continued by saying that he was sure that he was told at other LILCO hearings that at least ten pipes were needed to serve two plants and now he was confused and things didn't jibe somehow.

ARTHUR C. SCHNEIDER, President of Island Helicopter, was sworn in and continued as follows: "We are the people that supply the trucks, pilots, helicopters and apparatus to the farmers for spraying their crops. I had the pleasure of addressing the Board last evening in Riverhead and tonight I have some additional information that I think is quite pertinent to what the outcome of these hearings would possibly be.

It would be naive of me to stand here before you tonight and tell you that my pilots cannot work effectively in fields where power lines and tower structures are situated. It can be done. To over simplify this statement, I say to you that it is difficult and requires absolute concentration to say the least. If you have seen our helicopters working the east end of the Island over the last 12 years, you know that we do exist with these structures and lines. The name of the game is effectiveness and economics. In our business, the economic factor is productivity. To put a helicopter into a field to spray, one must give consideration to approximately eleven factors that will determine productivity. Add power lines and tower structures and

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. - continued:Arthur C. Schneider continues:

you increase that by two factors. Total consideration of these factors bring you to a mathematical equation of cost. There is approximately 20% increase in cost difference when spraying an unobstructed field as opposed to one with obstructions. The effectiveness of application around obstructions is also reduced by approximately 20%.

I have been informed that a statement has been made and is on record that where a problem might exist by using a helicopter in a particular field, the farmer can go back to using his ground spraying apparatus.

Now, you must realize some of this apparatus was put back in the barn twelve years ago, if in fact, the farmer has ground apparatus at all that's functional. Through years of continued research which is too complex and lengthy to go into here, I will just state that we have effected methods to increase the yields of our fields. It has been scientifically documented by field tests in Prince Edward Island that the use of a helicopter rather than the ground sprayer shows an increase in yield of potatoes at a minimum of 10% per acre.

Now, what does this mean to the farmer?

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 100 \text{ A} & & \text{Factor of 10\%} \\ 300 \text{ H. W} & = & \\ \hline 30,000 & & 27,000 \text{ H. W} \\ & & \\ & & 3,000 \text{ H. W} \end{array}$$

Which is cost effective

$$3,000 \text{ H. W at } \$5.00 = \$15,000 \text{ increase!}$$

Farmer never would see that \$15,000 if he did not use the helicopter.

Now, he doesn't just put that in his pocket and head for the horse track, nor does he run down to Merrill Lynch - that's a gross figure! He's got to pay me - in round figures, 100 at for 10 sprays costs him \$3,000 - take that off and you have a cost effective number now of \$12,000 - Wow! He's made \$12,000 by using the helicopter - well - that's not how it is either.

Before the helicopter the farmer only averaged perhaps six to eight sprays a year. Why so little as compared to the number he sprays now? Because he could not get his spray rig into the field because of possibly a drought condition, or it rained so much his rig would get stuck or sink. When the farmer sprays with his spray rig he is forced to make a trade-off. As you can see it's a negative trade-off.

Now, he's still got this \$12,000 he made by using the helicopter - where do you suppose that goes? Fact of the matter is he's already spent it. He's invested it right back where he got it from! His potatoes. He bought additional materials to protect his crop and increased the number of sprays so as to guarantee a good crop.

As we all know well, when we have good yields here, every business and every individual benefits. When we don't, we all know what that's like - if you don't, look around and find a banker, find an appliance salesman, or a car salesman and ask him. You'll get an absolute picture of what good yield means!

The statement, to go back to the ground rig, as opposed to utilizing a modern agricultural tool, namely the helicopter, is a statement made by someone who obviously does not understand modern agriculture or whose research leaves much to be desired.

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. -continued:

Arthur C. Schneider continues: We are now celebrating our Country's Bicentennial, our 200th birthday. Think of that. 200 years old. A real milestone no matter how you measure it. Happy Birthday America! I would like to share a thought with you this evening as we enter into our year of celebration for this occasion. The thought I would like to share with you is one I have not heard mentioned yet. I bring this to your attention because of its significance, at this point in time. Our politicians, namely our President and Secretary of State, are scurrying all over the world for every kind of meeting you can conceive, all in the name of peace! To achieve detente, to lessen aggression. You name it - we are trying to do it all and well we should. "

At this point Mr. Schneider read the following excerpt from a Newsday editorial: "What do we do about the food gap? In 1973, after secretly buying up 1/4 of the entire United States wheat crop the Soviet Union fostered its own interest by sending India two million tons of grain. Meanwhile, the United States had trouble meeting its own grain commitment to India because of shortages resulting from the Russian wheat deal. In the lessons of 1973, when American food became an instrument of Soviet foreign policy they are even more pertinent today. Food like oil is rapidly becoming the new point of power in the world, but the United States doesn't seem to realize it." (End of excerpt from Newsday)

Mr. Schneider continued to say: "Ladies and gentlemen, give what I am about to say serious thought. Our statesmen are using all the tools at their disposal to try and slow down the build-up of bombs, missiles and delivery systems for bombs. They are not, however, giving full consideration nor are we here to the fact that we - we America! - have the ace in the hole. We! We America! have the trump card. We have something that other countries cannot put on a war head and send over here, something we all know other countries want! Do you know what that is? It is protein, it is food, it is grain, it is potatoes, it is all those things that America can produce in abundance that no other country can. Can you believe, Our Long Island potato can be a weapon? If you don't think so, then you have never been hungry. When your belly grumbles from lack of anything in it, whoever you are, wherever you are - it can change your thinking profoundly! What makes this a weapon? It is the ability of the American farmer to out-produce all other agricultural operations anywhere in the world. They accomplish this through better productivity by employing new methods and techniques.

What in the world does this have to do with LILCO wanting to run some towers and lines through some farm land here in Riverhead? I will answer that for you. "

Mr. Schneider read the following excerpt from the News-Review: "

"The Long Island Farm Bureau will be an active intervenor in future hearings of the P. S. C. on the LILCO Transmission Lines. But their's is an uphill battle. Historically, LILCO need only hint to the public that the lines are important to insure future energy needs, and a large segment of the public will support any proposal, however injurious it may be to some." (End of excerpt from News-Review)

Mr. Schneider continued to say: "This is frustrating. This can be the straw that breaks the farmers backs. Put yourself in the farmer's shoes. He, his father and probably his father's father have worked that land for years. A public service company comes along and says - sorry, we want to run some towers and lines through your property. The farmer says - "I'm too busy growing a crop. Buzz off! Oh, but we have the right to come through here and put this stuff across your field." Now, as

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. - continued:

things happen the farmer will holler like hell, he will be told he will have his day to speak, will be given hearings, such as we are involved in right now, but because of the authority of the P. S. C. , they're going through anyway. That's what this newspaper concludes. Now things like this don't just happen here on Long Island. The P. S. C. and their likes do this all over the country. There is a point some place where the people just give up and say the hell with it. They're too big. The fight is too great. They just plain quit. When our farmers give up and quit, we have lost the greatest contributor to the good life we all share. When our farmers give up and quit, we lose our trump card, we've lost that ace in the hole. When the aggressionists countries of the world knock at our door for food, which make no mistake, they will, how are you going to be able to tell them let's de-activate your war machine first and I will give you the potatoes you need to survive!

You won't be able to do it if the farmers give up. One of the real possibilities for world peace is our productive agriculture. Believe it or not, in this day and age, I heard the statement made - "Why do you need farmers anyway. If you need potatoes, peas, corn, bread, all you have to do is run down to the local grocery store and buy some." Now without question, that is a guy that really doesn't understand what's really going on.

So again I say, Happy Birthday America. Land of the Free, Home of the Brave. Land of the Free? Free if you don't have a public service Company breathing down your neck to put their equipment across your property and home of the brave, brave if in fact you have enough bravery left to fight the long ensuing battle.

It is imperative we keep our farmers in agriculture, not run them from their farms when there are alternatives! I think the officials of the Town of Riverhead, as well as the officials of the County of Suffolk, and LILCO, owe absolute responsibility not only to our own resident farmers, but to all of us! I think that productive agricultural land should not be disturbed and that an alternative should be effected. "

CONNIE GEVINSKI, Center Street, South Jamesport, spoke on the underground transmission lines as being the least objectionable of the two, so that the farmlands are not disturbed.

She further spoke on using Sound Avenue as a truck route.

VIRGINIA WINES, Sound Avenue, Riverhead, was sworn in and spoke as follows: "I am speaking for the Riverhead First Committee. It should be obvious that the farmers do not want transmission lines or a so-called temporary road to cut through their farmland. If the transmission lines and a roadway are built, acres and acres of prime farmland will be lost forever. Isn't our County and our Town trying to preserve our farmland?

Riverhead First has opposed the building of a nuclear plant at "Jamesport on the Sound", as I heard it referred to on the radio today, from the very beginning of the PSC Hearings, over a year ago.

Now, a year later, the farmers are fighting the proposed transmission lines. Well! Finally! But this is a small fight, the big battle is to prevent the building of the plant.

LILCO has not proved that we need the plant. They help to provide energy for other areas. The potential hazards of a nuclear plant are so great, that we must not allow it to be built. And now that the PSC has determined that evacuation plans

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. - continued:

Virginia Wines continues:

must be prepared in the event of a nuclear disaster, we should all wake up and stop LILCO before it is too late. "

JOHN ZILNICKI, Riverhead, was sworn in and stated that he was against the pipeline that Northville wants and he is also against the transmission lines.

He concluded by saying that if we give in on the lines, we'll have to give in on everything.

WALTER ROLLE, Aquebogue, was sworn in and made the following statement: "I oppose these lines because our cherished land would be taken and once it's taken, we'll never get it back. I think we should consider alternate routes - burying the lines in the Sound or underground and the last possible thing, overhead lines. "

JOHN ROLLE, South Jamesport echoed Mr. Schneider's sentiments.

HELEN BEREZNY, Riverhead, stated that she is a farmer in business with her son and she, like many of the older farmers is ready to retire and turn over the farming to the younger ones.

She then stated that if the young farmers are always going to have a hassle like this coming up, they're going to lose interest in farming.

She continued by saying that the farmers always have a battle with something, whether it is the weather, insects or rising dealer's costs for their seed, fertilizers, etc., and now they have to fight LILCO.

She concluded by saying, "If more things come out to little Long Island, she's just going to crumble into the water. "

REVEREND MICHAEL WODZIAK, St. Isidore's Church, Riverhead, stated that St. Isidore's Church is opposed to the power lines because they would go over St. Isidore's Cemetery property and further suggested that another route be found.

CHARLOTTE ZAWESKI, Jamesport, stated that she was a farmer's wife, born and raised in this community and just wanted to go on record as being opposed, as a resident and a farmer's wife, to this proposal.

She further stated that people who have spoken before her have presented her views, as well, and she just wanted it known that she is against the plant being built in Jamesport.

ROBERT HARTMANN, Sound Avenue, Riverhead, was sworn in and continued as follows: "I am a farmer here in Riverhead and I'm not going to go into anything about our farming techniques and the problems that these lines will cause us, because I spoke at length on that last night. But I would like to make a few other statements.

LILCO is a money making company. They came into this Town with the idea of making money. Strictly business - otherwise they couldn't care less about Riverhead. They make money because the PSC just about guarantees it, by law.

The farmer doesn't have the PSC to back him up. He has no way whatsoever to pass on his costs. They're strictly a supply and demand deal and actually the only

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. - continued:

Robert Hartmann continues:

time a farmer makes a killing, so to speak, is when another farmer down the road, has a disaster. That's the way it works. So the farmer barely makes it alone as most of you know.

I'd like to pose a couple of questions that concern the farmers along these lines. Who is going to pay the cost to the farmer by having these lines come across his land? I know LILCO is going to pay him something for it and they might pay him a little damage too. But I'm talking about everyday damage and you know it.

Every day you work those fields, it's going to cost you something - not only in money, but in just plain aggravation. I'm talking about 40 or 50 years down the road. There are five young Hartmann sons down the street and they would like to follow in the footsteps of their father. I don't know. Will they be able to? If these lines chop us up too bad, what are you going to have to pass on to these boys? You worked all your life to get what you got and when all is said and done and you fight disasters and weather conditions - what have you got, your machinery? How much does that amount to?

You've got your land shaped so you can work it right and work it economically, so you can make money on it. Sometimes you might have even taken better care of your land than your wife, but that's the way a farmer feels about it. That's his land and if he hasn't got land, he hasn't got anything.

These lines coming along here are going to be, a constant perpetual cost. I'd like to know who's going to pay that constant cost, because we can't force it out of the consumer.

Another question that I have is, what will happen to the fields that are cut up so badly that they will be uneconomical to work? This is a very important question. Will the Town let us build houses on there and sell them or develop it? I don't know how you feel about that. Or are we supposed to just walk away from them?

The way the taxes are escalating today, a farmer cannot afford to pay that amount of tax per acre for unproductive land. We just can't do it. Are we supposed to walk away and leave them there to grow up in weeds? I'm sure the tourists aren't going to come out here and pay a couple of bucks to see weedy fields. I'm sure this isn't going to beautify Riverhead!

These are very important questions that need some answers, not only to the farming community, but to the Town. Agriculture has a definite impact on this whole Town.

The Farm Bureau Committee has repeatedly asked LILCO for alternate routes that could be of benefit to all parties concerned - not only the Town, but agriculture, to LILCO and the PSC. But repeatedly, we have been met with arrogance.

LILCO officials keep stating that they are complying with the law and it is up to the farmers to come up with a route. We aren't lawyers. We aren't transmission line experts. We are farmers and we don't like to get involved with a lot of legal gobblediegook. We like to hear something straight off the shoulder, straight down to earth talking and honest talking. We don't like to have to drag something out of somebody. If you are going to do tell us exactly what you are going to do. Don't say we're going to do this, but make us have to dig and dig and dig and find way down in a couple of books this thick, only to find out that in years to come, we're going to lose more and more. Tell us the whole works. We've

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. - continued:

Mr. Hartmann continues:

handled hurricanes and disasters, we can absorb the whole works at once. But LILCO is supplied with a very generous amount of money to hire a multitude of very sharp lawyers, just to meet the law and cleverly conceal many facts and details until the eleventh hour. The farm community has had the feeling that it has been hit below the belt, so to speak, about a lot of things. We could have been told earlier and we could have been told a lot more straight facts, but we haven't. We have to dig and argue, to speak money and spend time - everybody's time.

If LILCO is truly interested in the public they serve, in the environment, in the Town and in the industry in the Town that they may well decimate, but especially if they were interested in the people they serve, it seems to me that they would go about things with a little more common sense. There is no technology or learning in this world that can beat common sense.

The public's money spent on hearings, not only for the plant, but for the transmission lines, is just fantastic. Why not cut corners and use some common sense and go to the people you are hurting and see if things can be straightened out. Why should it be up to the farmers to prove another route? A farmer should never be put in that position.

The farm community is not about to run scared. If they are forced to fight in LILCO'S ball park, we will. We're not going to give up what we worked all our lives for easily. We're not going to lie down, so to speak. If we have to go down, somebody's going to have to knock us down. And if that's the way it's going to be, maybe we'll do a little knocking down.

I'd like to close with this statement. I think the best way to gain respect in the community is to do something for it - not against it. "

STANLEY ZAWESKI, Jamesport, stated that he had been a farmer here all his life and could totally sympathize with anyone who was going to have these lines going across their property because he had to put up with the Long Island Railroad going through his property everyday.

He continued by saying that it was a terrible inconvenience, not only as far as equipment was concerned, but as a health hazard.

DAVID WINES, Sound Avenue, Riverhead, stated that he was a farmer and wanted to go on record as opposing both the overhead and underground lines and was in favor of dropping them in the Sound for the simple reason of what it would do to the productiveness of the soil.

He went on to explain how the soil could never be returned to a productive state, once it is tampered with and estimated roughly that 300 acres of Riverhead's prime farmland would be lost for ever, if these lines and access roads are permitted to cut across the farms.

Supervisor Smith then recessed the Hearing for five minutes to allow people to register with the Town Clerk.

After resuming the Hearing, Supervisor Smith stated that since there were not as many speakers as the night before, he would like to direct some questions for the Farm Bureau, to Mr. Walsh.

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. continued:

Supervisor Smith read the first question as follows: "After what you have heard here tonight and in Riverhead last night, do you still maintain that LILCO's proposal is environmentally compatible with the area affected?"

Mr. Walsh replied stating that there was no question in his mind that what was said was very important and LILCO will give every consideration to the value placed on Riverhead's farmlands, but repeated that the purpose of these Hearings was for the farmers to discuss and suggest alternate routes for these lines and present them to the Town Board.

Supervisor Smith asked Mr. Walsh if it was a correct statement that eventually the PSC would sit down with LILCO and the Farm Bureau, etc., and discuss some of the possible alternate routes.

Mr. Walsh replied stating that he hoped the PSC would consider all the alternate routes that the people think would be better than what the Lighting Co. has proposed.

Supervisor Smith then posed the second question: "What alternative routes can you propose to avoid crossing the Town's farmlands?"

Mr. Walsh stated that there were any number of them, if they looked at the map - north of Sound Avenue, just south of Sound Avenue, farther south to County Road 58, and further added that all of these routes are available. It's just a matter of which one the people suggest and what the PSC decides to do in regard to costs and environmental impact.

Supervisor Smith, then went on to his third question of whether LILCO gave any consideration to the Farmlands Preservation Program of Suffolk County, when they made their proposal.

Mr. Walsh replied stating that LILCO was well aware of the Farmlands Preservation Program and it is mentioned in both the application for the generating plant and in respect to the transmission lines.

Supervisor Smith continued by asking: "Do you think that the farmland in the proposed alternatives has intrinsic, historic or preservation value?"

Mr. Walsh replied stating that LILCO is aware of the value of the lands through which the recommended transmission line passes and further added that he believed they were of more value, in an agricultural sense, than lands more to the north of Sound Avenue.

Continuing on, Supervisor Smith asked: "When you prepared your proposal, did you consider the problems that the transmission lines would cause with respect to modern techniques, and machinery used by the farmer to spray and irrigate his farmland?"

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. continued:

Mr. Walsh replied stating that LILCO was aware that these were the kind of problems that they would have to compensate for and after listening to the farmers during the hearings they were even more aware of the hardships the farmers would face.

Supervisor Smith asked for clarification of the size of the right-of-way needed to service 1, 2, 3 and 4 nuclear plants, if the lines were placed underground.

Mr. Walsh replied as follows: "The first two units in Jamesport were originally scheduled for 1981 and 1983. Because of the prolonged hearings, it now looks like 1983 and 1985. If the hearings go on longer, it'll be later than that.

For two units, which are proposed, and I ought to add that if a third and fourth unit is built, we're talking about sometime in the year 2000. By then, who knows, we may have different technologies available to us, but that's the time frame we're discussing for units 3 and 4.

The width that is required for overhead lines for two units is the 240 ft. that has been described. The width that is required for two units underground is 75 ft. Then if we go to the third and fourth units, additional space would be required, but I might point out to you that it doesn't have to be along that same route, although we would probably recommend that. If we assume that all four units would be built at once, the width would be twice 75 ft. or 150 ft. for underground lines. The 240 ft. would be sufficient for all 4 units, if they were overhead lines. "

Supervisor Smith continued: "If the lines are placed underground, how often would the company need to retrench, maintain and repair along the right-of-way?"

Mr. Walsh replied stating that normally speaking, they would require very little maintenance, except, of course, if there was a break or fault, which is very unlikely.

He continued by saying that the need for retrenching after the initial installation would be very, very rare.

Supervisor Smith asked Mr. Walsh if he would address himself to the map for a moment and clarify the alternate 2N5, underground routes.

Mr. Walsh walked to the map and pointed out that it runs from the Jamesport location at a point, north of Sound Avenue, midway between the Sound and Sound Avenue and runs in a westerly direction till it reaches Union Avenue, then cuts southerly across Sound Avenue and heads in a southwesterly direction and cuts across Doctor's Path and Roanoke Avenue and then on in to the Calverton substation.

Supervisor Smith then asked the final question: "When you prepared your proposal did you consider the impact of it upon the soil conditions along the route, both during and as a result of construction, as well as maintenance?"

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. continued:

Mr. Walsh stated that indeed their environmental expert had looked at it, but further commented that in view of what was said at these hearings he himself had second thoughts about whether or not the unique nature of the farmland in that area was given the consideration it perhaps deserved.

He concluded by answering a question posed previously by Mr. Hartmann: "The Lighting Company is not asking anybody to prove anything. What we're asking you to do is to suggest to the Board, suggest to the PSC, a route that you feel these lines should take so that they can give that consideration. And I am certainly going to support reasonable routes that you suggest. "

BARBARA LUEBKUECHER, Herricks Lane, Jamesport, was sworn in and stated that she would like to speak on another phase of agriculture - the nursery business, saying as follows: "My husband owns and operates a nursery in Jamesport and we are equally as concerned as the farmers around us with what this LILCO proposal will do to our farm. It seems that these lines will be running through us too.

We do not feel that we would like to see these lines running through our land. Everything that the farmers have said before me tonight, is exactly the way we feel.

As far as the aesthetic value of the land is concerned, that is one of the most important considerations. We really feel that these towers will ruin the farmlands.

We feel that the aerial spraying and the irrigation will be very sorely affected by these poles being there. "

She then mentioned three articles that appeared in Newsday, one in particular about three Reactor Engineers who plan to quit LILCO after a combined total of 46 years experience, because they really aren't sure about the ultimate safety of the people, after nuclear plants are in effect.

She then spoke about the radioactive waste being trucked out through the Town and then addressed herself to the subject of the transmission lines saying: "We feel that we have been hit very hard with the taxes and we feel that the high cost of operating our agricultural establishment has been really rough.

We want to know if there is really a need for this plant and these lines running through our land. Shoreham is 20 miles down the road and I don't think there is anyone here in this room tonight that is totally convinced that we need this.

The question in my mind is, if we have to work so hard to figure out where to put these lines, do we really need it?"

DR. ALFRED SMITH, Sound Shore Road, Riverhead, was sworn in and elaborated on several points brought up previously and then stated that all these problems were minor compared to the problem of the 27 story monster proposed to be built in Jamesport, spewing radioactive material.

He then stated that he felt the Town was going to beat LILCO in this matter, but if the PSC decides to go ahead and build the plant anyway, there has to be a transmission line.

He concluded by saying: "If you have a cancer in the leg, you cut off the leg, you don't start at the toes and nibble away. If we're going to stop this thing, we have to start with the cancer, right up here at Northville. "

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. -continued:

VERNON WELLS, JR., Northville, was sworn in and proceeded as follows: "It's been brought up tonight, that perhaps the underground route wouldn't disturb as much farmland and it was even suggested that there was very little owned farmland, north of Sound Avenue, on the historical side. I would like to change that opinion right away, because our farm is included in that and is on record as being the oldest continuously run family farm in the State of New York. It goes back 315 years.

I think a number of the points that have been brought out tonight, have been brought out with much emphasis. "

He then spoke of having leased some land to Northville Industries for their submarine pipelines out into the Sound back in the 50's, and even though they did the best they could to put the land back the way it was before all the digging, the land has never been a good producer since.

He then stated that he was always told "not to question those in government because they know what they're doing", and was told the same about big business, but he believed, as did Robert Hartmann, that if LILCO had been honest and used common sense and sat down and talked with the people involved, all this trouble would not be happening.

He went on to suggest three alternative routes, the first being in the Sound, secondly, perhaps along the route of Sound Avenue, thirdly, somewhat closer to Route 58.

FRED REEVE, Sound Avenue, Riverhead, was sworn in and stated that he covers six states with his chemical service and he wanted everybody to know that people here take what they have for granted.

Mr. Reeve went on to say: "We have the best farmland of any land that I've seen in these six states and this is the land that we're talking about being ravaged. The very prime land in all these states that I cover and I want to suggest to the Town Board in this case; In the first place, I'm not sure we need that damn plant, but if it's got to be there, why not put the big towers out in the Sound, forget underwater. Put the big towers in the water and let the overhead lines go over the water, where they wouldn't do any harm to farming. "

EVA NICOSIA, Jamesport, was sworn in and made the following statement: "I have very little to say except that I am a resident of Jamesport. I am not a farmer, although I do come from farm country and I'm very proud of the land that we have here and as Mr. Walsh said, it is certainly unique farm land. I am opposed to the transmission lines, certainly above or under neath the ground. I don't know enough about it to know whether it is feasible to put them underground, in the water. "

TED BREITENBACH, Riverhead, spoke from the floor, stating that he was opposed to the overhead lines and especially the underground lines.

ROGER NICOSIA, Jamesport, stated from the floor that he was opposed to putting the plant in Jamesport at all, no matter where the lines went.

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. -continued;

RICHARD ANDERSON, Riverhead, asked why they picked the Jamesport site originally.

Supervisor Smith, stated that he would come back to that question, after everyone had expressed their views on the transmission lines.

WILLIAM NOHEJL asked Supervisor Smith if the dimensions of the transmission corridor mentioned tonight varied from the ones they had previously heard.

Supervisor Smith stated that there were some conflicting figures that were being given tonight for their consideration, but he felt that they had clarified the 75 feet figure.

MR. NOHEJL then went on to say that earlier in the evening, he had been quite upset about the difference in figures, but now that he was somewhat cooled off, he would make a brief statement as follows:

"First of all I appreciate seeing everyone here tonight. It's a show of force that we need. We're not going to let these people run right over us. Some people say to me, 'What's the use in fighting?' Not me. If they're going to knock me down, I'm going to be standing when they do it! I'm not going to lie down in front of them.

Now we all know that we have a beautiful area here. We have beautiful farmland. As Mrs. Luebkeuecher said, we have beautiful nurseries here, the best land in the whole Town of Riverhead is in this area. Why should we let these people come in here and take what is rightfully ours.


They have no consideration for the farmers that are involved. This electricity will be going out-of-state, at our expense. Why not all of us get up and say, take it someplace else, don't send it through our land!"

Supervisor Smith then returned to Mr. Anderson's question and said: "Recently, the State Legislature passed an Article to the Public Service Law which effectively lifted a local community such as ours, lifted our jurisdiction to zone against this kind of facility. We could zone it for cemetery purposes and the determination to be made by the siting board, which is made up of certain heads of state departments that for the purposes of the State of New York, and the requirements of the area, that this is where a particular, generating facility, could and should go. If you wish further information on the exact process that is followed, it is described, although technically, in the blue set of volumes in the Riverhead Free Library. I don't recall exactly which volume the selection process is in, but it is spelled out in there and you will see that they are certain alternative proposals that are proposed beyond Shoreham and Jamesport. The focus of the Article 8 proceeding, which is now pending, is whether or not the plants should be built at Jamesport or Shoreham, in the exact nature of the type of plant that can be built. It is a correct statement, I believe, that the siting board could site a coal-fire unit or units at Jamesport, rather than nuclear. "

Supervisor Smith then announced that the third hearing would be in the Wading

PUBLIC HEARING -7:30 P. M. -continued:
River Community Center on North Wading River Road, at 7:30 P. M. , the
following night.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P. M., to meet on February 5th,
1976, at Wading River at 7:30 P. M.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helene M. Block". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Helene M. Block, Town Clerk

HMB/MHJ